The Logger's BARK

1916 - Radio Club of Tacoma - 2016

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A Time To Be Thankful

The President's Corner

Dave W7UUU

For the last couple of weeks, Anne and I have been packing an endless array of boxes of the mountain of accumulated stuff, from one end of the house to another, all in preparation of our move to a 5-acre country place out in Port Orchard. What to keep, what to try to sell, what to donate, what to recycle? This is all in support of a move that neither of us ever thought we'd be making, but that came about in a very short time when we realized that 21 new McMansions behind us will have a huge impact on what was before: a seven-acre forest. Five of these homes have a courtside view into our backyard, bedrooms and kitchen – barely twenty feet away. So sorting, packing and moving stuff very recently for us has become the order of the day. We've all, of course, been through moving to a new house, and it never really gets any better despite, in many cases, years of practice (this will be the 21st move in my life).

But all the while, taking breaks from the task at hand, I would surf the internet and news sites. It seems that lately there are so many *terrible* things happening around the world, from horrible tragedies right here in the US, to foreign countries being ripped apart by despots and dictators, amid a tsunami of political strife in so many places. And each time I would take these breaks from packing, then return to the mundane task of figuring out what goes in the trash, what goes to Goodwill, and what goes in a box, I was increasingly struck by how lucky and fortunate I am to be doing this dull task that just a few days ago seemed such an onerous chore.

Sometimes the daily drama of getting through our own lives, it seemed to me somewhat blinds us to the plight of so many others, both in our own communities as well as abroad. How many struggle to get by, struggle to survive in a horrific situation or just make it home safely from a concert? Or struggle to exist in places where the very existence for so many is curtailed, with people often hopeless ever to escape, so often controlled by the despotic few at the top. I'm blessed and thankful to have such simple problems as packing a myriad of boxes of my stuff and carting them to a five acre retreat out in the country. I'm so fortunate to have the family I have and the love we share; for the friends I have, the safety and security I enjoy; and most certainly the camaraderie and mutual respect of the more than three hundred members of our now 101-year-old organization, the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is a time for us to remember how blessed we are; how fortunate we are to be together; to have the things that make our lives rewarding and comfortable, and the love of friends and family.

We will gather for this, our annual feast of plenty, then do all the ordinary traditional chores that come with that: the cleanup, putting away or sending with family the leftovers. But it's also a great time to be just a little introspective, to stop and think of the blessings and bounty that so many of us share, that so many in the world (or right here at home) can only dream of.

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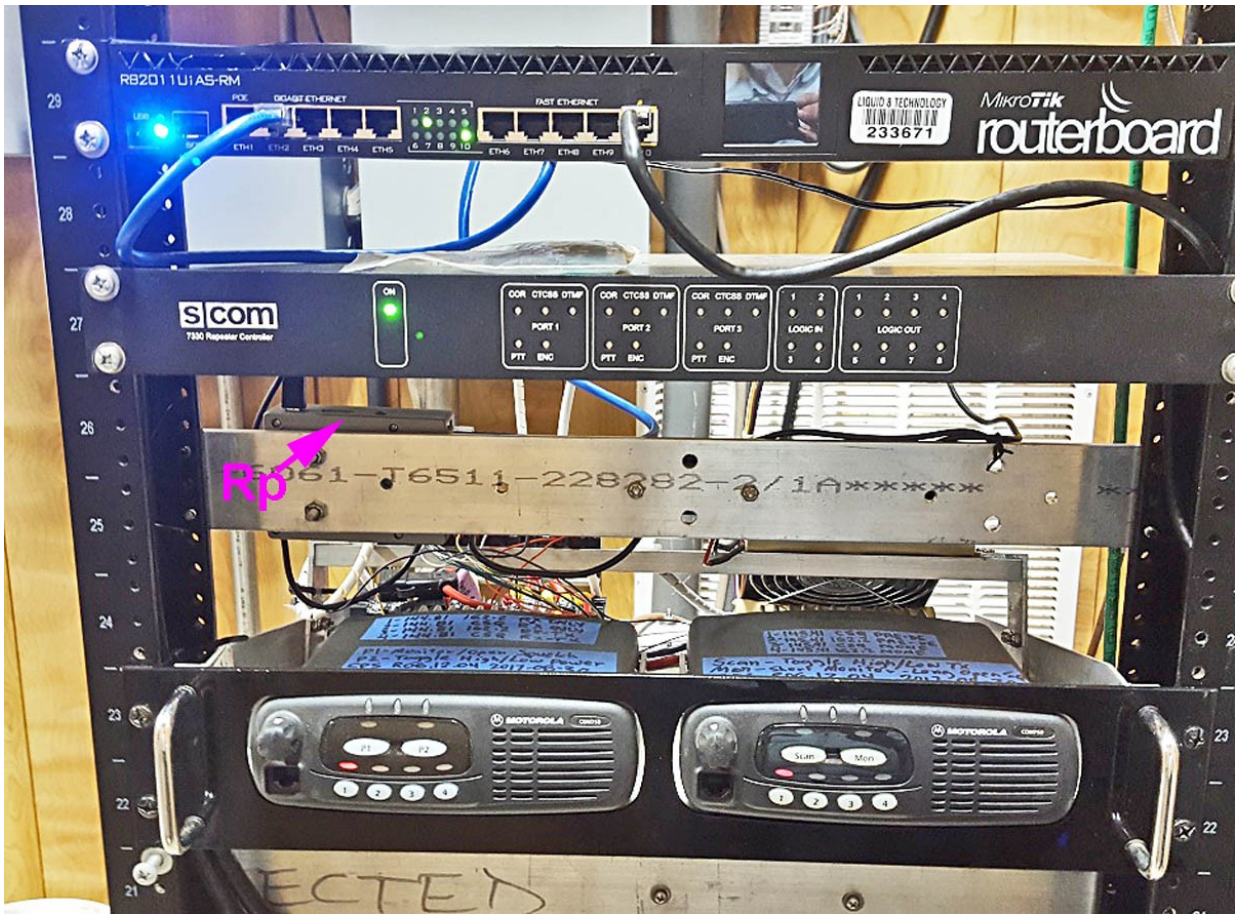
Perhaps we can all consider spreading some of our own holiday cheer of this wonderful season and making the lives of someone less fortunate closer to that which most of us in our club share, whether abroad or at the house next door. Donations to charities, to the old fellow with the cardboard sign at the freeway off-ramp, or volunteering for work in a food bank. There are so many countless ways to return our own blessings and comfort, even in just the smallest of ways. We all pretty much know what *could* be done to help others if only we each took the time; it's all in the ***doing***. So please – maybe this year perhaps for the first time: ***Do.***

For now, I'm back to sorting, disposing, and packing my sea of boxes to continue our move. But of all times of the year, right now is a great time to remind myself that just the chores of our upcoming move are in themselves a blessing, and one to be celebrated.

A very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving wish to all our members. 73, Dave W7UUU

HAMSHACKS OF THE MONTH

BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS



This equipment is one of many repeaters belonging to Bruce Cheshier WB7DOB

Bottom Shelf: **2 Motorola CDM750 mobile radios. L is the receiver and R is transmit.**

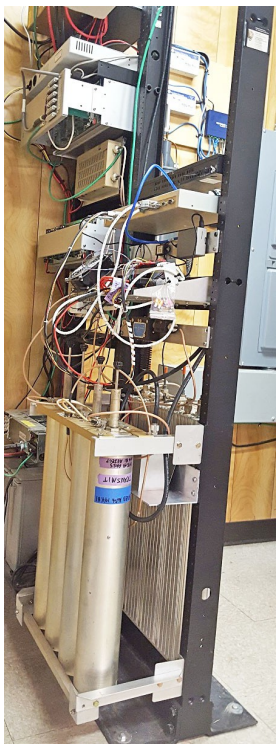
Next to Bot: **Blank panel with Raspberry Pi SBC (Rp) that works as VOIP (Voice Over Internet) link.**

Next to Top: **SCOM Repeater Controller that integrates the Rp VOIP link to the radio equipment.**

Top shelf: **Microtik RouterBoard– the Ethernet IP connection to the outside world via HamWan.**

The repeater operates on **145.410 / PL 162.2**, from the **Crystal Mountain Ski Area** Communications Building- about 1/4 mile north of Summit House on the backbone of the resort's western ridge near Grubstake Point. The Comm Building houses 3 major Cellular Providers, Pierce County Sheriff, State of WA DOT, Puget Sound Energy and National Park Service.

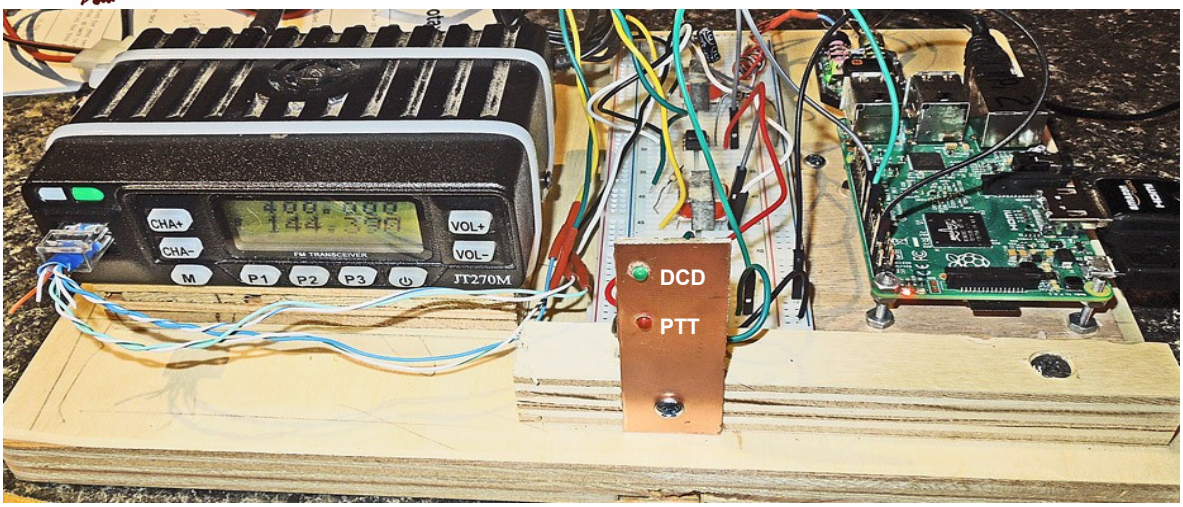
The repeater was installed in July to provide 2 meter mobile coverage along Highway 410 on the east side of Mt Rainier for communications support of the RAMROD Bicycle Race. In addition- this repeater was internet linked to Three Sisters (147.300), Paradise (145.130), Eatonville (146.700), and Ohanapekosh (145.290) repeaters to provide good 2 meter coverage along the 155 mile bicycle course that circles Mt Rainier. Now that the bicycle event is over, only the Crystal Mountain, Three Sisters, and Paradise repeaters are permanently linked via HamWan. **Click HERE** for Info.



Above Photo: West side of Comm Building. Left dish is Microwave Link to Baldi Mountain for HamWan- the VOIP system that links the repeaters together. The repeaters 3 dB gain antenna is on the very R mast.
L Photo shows equipment rack that contains the WB7DOB repeater. Duplexer 'cans' are in bottom of this rack. It's worth it: **Click HERE** to learn more about ***HamWan***.

Rig of the Month

K7MXE-6 - APRS DigiPeater + Internet Gateway



On Left: Jet Stream 2M, 10W radio. Center: Breadboard interface components. R: is Raspberry Pi 3 SBC that provides connections to the internet and interfaces audio and Push to Talk to the Radio. Note that this system is in the "Experimental" Phase until bugs and glitches are worked out.

Stay Tuned For Dec. 2017's Rig: K7BUD's super Heathkit SS9000

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

Dateline: Nov 14, RCT Clubhouse, RCT Property Management Team Leader, Red WB7EC relays this message via the ancient RTTY Mode. Red Sez: The Summer Sale is over and the PMT thanks all folks that that were able to help contribute to the club funds. The new and improved **Winter Sale** is replacing the old Summer Sale. It consists of the remaining unsold Summer items plus additional items to be added as new donations come in. This list of equipment will take us to the Mike & Key Ham feast in March 2018. Remember that the PMT store (list available) will be open every Saturday and we'll will put items on display during the last Saturday of the month. Again thank you for the club's membership support of PMT's Sales. Clean out the ham shack for unneeded items for donations to PMT Sales and club raffle prizes.

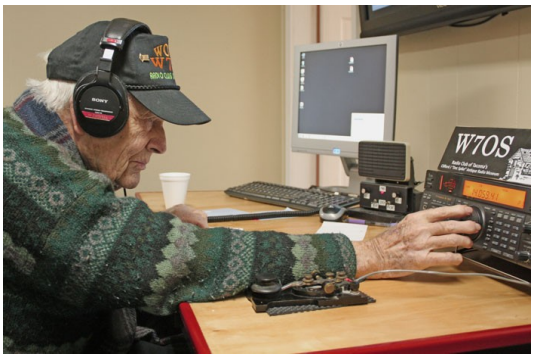
73, and be safe for the coming Holidays.

Got Donations? Let Red Know: **wb7ec@w7dk.org**

Winter Sale List:

PMT#	Item Name	Your Cost
1	National HF Receiver NC-270	$ 75.00
12.	Astron Pwr Supply RS 12A	$25.00
14.	Astron Pwr Supply RS-12	$ 25.00
22.	CDE HAM 44 Rotor/controller	$ 100.00
23.	KLM/M2 triband beam KT34XA- new in box	$ 1000.00
28.	ICOM IC-F410 UHF XCVR	$ 200.00
29.	Timewave DSP 599ZX	$ 35.00
36.	Military VOM ME-9G/U	$ 5.00
40.	4-Drake UV-3 tri-band XCVRS	$ 250.00
42.	Hickok RF signal/sweep Generator MOD. 292X	$ 20.00
43.	Heathkit HP-5218 Audio/Square Generator	$ 75.00
45.	Daiwa CN-801 SWR/PWR Meter	$ 100.00
46.	Heathkit HWA-202 Power Supply	$ 10.00
47.	Shure Desk mic	$ 45.00
48.	ICOM MB-17A Mobile Radio Bracket	$ 25.00
50.	Archer Discharge Ignition Kit	$ 25.00
51.	Oregon SCI Weather Station (used)	$ 50.00
52.	Standard HX-250 Marine Handi-Talkie	$ 100.00
53.	Bencher (KEY) paddle	$ 75.00
54 .	Advanced Elect. APP MBA Reader	$ 50.00
55.	W2IHY Audio Memory Keyer	$ 40.00
56.	Heathkit Ultrapro CW keyboard HD-8999	$ 100.00
57.	B & W Trapped Dipole (160-20 mtrs) AS-160	$ 75.00
58.	Yaesu VX-5RS 2mtr XCVR (hand held)	$ 100.00

Straight Key Night 2018



W7WG

Once again, as we have for years uncounted, the Radio Club of Tacoma will ring in the New Year starting at 0000z on January 1, 2018, by participating in the annual, ARRL-sponsored **Straight Key Night** (SKN) celebration.

You are invited to the Clubhouse on **Sunday, December 31**, between **4pm and 9pm local time**, for an evening of socializing and, if you like, radio operation in the traditional manner: using Morse code, mechanical sending devices (straight keys and bugs) and radio sets from the era of vacuum tubes.

W7MWF

Of course, you don't have to be a CW operator to enjoy Straight Key Night at the Clubhouse. While brass is pounded in the upstairs rooms, the downstairs areas will buzz with the conversation of eyeball QSOs and the air will become fragrant with the aroma of savory victuals. We'll also conduct a few rounds of **bingo**, with at least one "called" in Morse code, so plan to join in and compete for coveted prizes. And if you have a special or favorite key (or other telegraphy paraphernalia), bring it along for "show-and-tell" or to use on the air. Code practice oscillators will be available for demo purposes.

On Straight Key Night, RCT radio operators will sign **W7OS**, the call sign of the Clifford J. "Doc" Spike Museum at the Radio Club of Tacoma. SKN contacts are informal and jovial, in tribute to the spirit and history of our hobby and the promise of the coming New Year. Everyone is welcome to take a turn at the key, and there will be two stations available to operate.

The Club will provide pizza starting at 5:30pm. Soda and coffee will also be provided. If you'd like to contribute something to eat, we encourage you to bring a tasty dessert.

Please join us for one of the Club's most eagerly-anticipated social and operating events: Straight Key Night 2018.

73, The Radio Club of Tacoma SKN Team

WB4SPB

Dateline: Nov 11, 2017, RCT Clubhouse, Jerry Room…

A large amount of activity commenced in the Jerry HF Room this Saturday. HF Station Manager Phil K7PIA was putting on a show with the stations new HF radio acquisition– An **Elecraft K3** that was recently purchased from club member PJ N7PXY. Your Radio Club paid for most of the purchase, but 10 other benefactors donated a total of $275 to come up with the needed amount. This K3 comes with some nice options- CW filter and Transverter Module to mention a few.

New K3 (top center). To R of K3 are 2 gizmos: Top is Arduino WinKeyer PC to K3 keyer (on loan from KR7W) and on Bottom is LP-PAN2 Panadaptor SDR Gizmo (on loan from PJ N7PXY). You'd think that this was a CW Contest station… not entirely as the SSB Microphone is pushed out of the view.

Binding Post OK on Lab Power Supply– not very good for a production Ham Station supply. Knurled Nut cant be removed and slips when too tight.

The transverter option lends itself to connecting a Software Defined Radio that can create a large screen Panadaptor display on one of the stations PC Monitors. Several panadaptor options are being investigated.

Swapping out the Icom 756 Pro 3 radio with the K3 revealed some inadequacies in the 30 Amp Astron Station Power Supply. This particular PS had Banana Jack Binding Posts for 13.8 VDC connections. It was discovered that the Black Post was not GND'd and the posts didn't tighten up very well which encouraged poor power connections on the cabling to the radio equipment. This Power Supply was modified to remove the Red Post, install a grommet and three RED-BLACK power cables that connect inside of the unit. As the cables exit– fuse holders provide the needed current limitation in the event of a fault. One cable is rated for 25 Amps, the others are rated for 5 amps. The new K3 uses the 25 amp tap, Amplified SPKR and new Rotator use the remaining 5 amp taps.

Your Radio Club recently purchased a new Rotor to turn the big Yagi at the top of the tower and a new controller to aim it. Bruce WE7P entertained a crowd of onlookers

New Sattrack SPID Rotator and Blue Herron rotator controller box. WE7P Bruce used Astron Power Supply to power it up.

whilst he tested the rotator and controller on a table– to ready it for its up the tower installation. A ***Hat Tip*** to Chuck AC7QN for fabricating the mechanical adapter to mate the new SPID rotator with the old school Tail Twister rotator mount and to Adam W2NCC, the tower climber.

Next time you visit your Clubhouse– considering helping out by:

Bring a roll of paper towels, toilet paper, paper cups, dry erase markers, or printer paper.

Leave a nice pen, pencil, or small tablet for notes in the HF room or Museum.

Empty the trash cans in the two restrooms.

If you see a soda can or coffee cup that is un–attended pick it up and put it in the trash- Yah, some people are not very tidy and think others should clean up after them- It's difficult to change their behavior but it's easy to toss a pop can or cup into the trash can.

Ask the Saturday host how you can help out for a short time. He/she would appreciate it.

Club Meeting Traffic

Provided by: Mike W7MWF, Club Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1855 PDT by Vice President Mike W7XTZ.

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Bob Jamison KE7WPK
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Quorum A quorum was present. 10 members signed the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Silent Key or Illness There were no reports of Silent Keys or illnesses

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the September 6, 2017 Board Meeting were approved.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual correspondence: bank statements, utility bills, periodicals. Salmon run pledges and donations and some membership renewals.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported that all outstanding bills have been paid. An unexpected expense for unclogging the sewer line has also been paid.

Committee / Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reported membership stands at 301, with a couple of renewals pending. Several Salmon run letters were returned so there may be a couple of members who have moved away.

Training Technician Class Oct 7/8
September 18 thru December 4 - Extra Class license theory course
Next VE Session October 10

Info Tech Randy WB4SPB reported that all systems are performing nominally.

Nominating Committee Randy WB4SPB reported that the final opportunity for floor nominations will be at the October 11, 2017 General Meeting. He solicited bios from

candidates and took photos to include with the ballot package. An Election Committee will need to be identified to count ballots and report election results at the November General Meeting.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that engineering and fabrication of the mast adapter is in progress.

Repeater Ops It was noted that there may be an upgrade planned for the .21 Bates Repeater. The roger beep has been disabled on the .28 repeater, and it will be determined if the K terminator can also be disabled.

Facilities Mgmt Condition of clubhouse plumbing was discussed. It was the consensus to excavate and expose additional components to inspect more thoroughly. The bathroom grab rail is available for installation and will be done soon. The garage rehab is nearly finished pending gutter installation. Replacement of the existing man door was discussed and replacement of the door was authorized.

Property Mgmt Red WB7EC reported on donations received and that September sales revenue was $737. PMT submitted a list of surplus items and the Board authorized disposition of the property. A copy of the list of items is filed with these minutes. Red also encouraged members to consider becoming part of the Property Management Team.

Museum Randy WB4SPB reported an integral power supply is being built for the Eldico transmitter, and that a major reorganization of the museum room is underway, with some exhibits being placed into attic storage and to be replaced with other items for display.

Weds Activity Night Mike W7MWF advised that the October 4WAN will be a hands-on workshop 'Introduction to bread-boards for circuit design and testing'.

Unfinished Business

Electrical panel decommissioning is awaiting completion when time and manpower is available.

New Business

Randy WB4SPB reported that there is a used Elecraft K3 transceiver for sale locally that could be suitable for integration into the HF station facilities. Possible acquisition of the rig will be looked into and reported back to the Board for consideration.

General Meeting (W7UUU)
"Prez Dave will discuss the many and exciting committee positions that will be available for volunteers to sign up for in time for the January Board Meeting when he will be appointing our 2018 committee chairmanships"

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Salmon Run Operations Report by Randy WB4SPB was that in spite of a lower score than last year, it was deemed a successful and worthwhile event.

Salmon Run Fundraiser Mike W7MKE reported that pledges and donations are still coming in, but that we have thus far received pledges and donations in excess of $4000.

Announcements

Reminder that October 11 General Meeting will be at the Eagles Club on So Tacoma Way, beginning promptly at 7 p.m.

Adam W2NCC needs artifacts/documents to memorialize in the 25 year and 100 year time capsules.

Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2000 PDT.

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Membership Meeting Agenda
October 11, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1900 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at the Eagles Club facility.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike W7MWF

Welcome and Self-Introductions
Guests present were Gary KH2AY, Kier KE6OSM and Ken and Diana
New Calls There were no new calls reported
Self-introductions were completed. 39 individuals signed the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Health and Welfare
Silent Keys and Illness It was reported that Richard Inwards W7RWI RCT #579 has become a silent key.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual stuff: periodicals, utility bills, bank statements. Salmon Run pledges and donations rolling in. A few membership applications

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported that all current bills have been paid

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reported that membership now stands at 302, and that a couple of lapsed members had returned

Training Technician Class November 11/12
September 18 thru December 4 - Extra Class license theory course

VE Report Mike W7MWF reported on behalf of John AC7WW. A copy of the VE Report is filed with these minutes. The next VE Session will be held November 14

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that the new rotor and controller have arrived and mounting adapters are being fabricated.

Repeater Ops It was noted that there may be an upgrade planned for the .21 Bates Repeater. The roger beep has been disabled on the .28 repeater, and it will be determined if the K terminator can also be disabled.

IT Report Randy WB4SPB reported that all systems are performing as expected and within normal parameters.

Nominating Committee Randy WB4SPB gave an overview of election procedures. A last call for nominations from the floor for open positions and none were forthcoming, therefor nominations were closed. Election ballots will be mailed and are due by the beginning of the November 8 2017 General Meeting. The slate of candidates for officers and directors with terms to begin January 1, 2018 are:

Vice President - Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary- Mike Finnie W7MWF
For 3 Board Positions:
Bruce Hanson WE7P
Paul Matney W7PFU
Bob Jamison KE7WPK
Adam Barbera W2NCC

Museum Rich KR7W reported on the status of the museum remodeling. He requested donations of 3/4 inch plywood if anyone has such lying around.

Facilities Mgmt Bruce WE7P reported on the sewer line evaluation. A grab bar will be installed in men's bathroom. Garage rehab is nearly complete and a new walk-through door will be installed.

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC provided sales and donation reports and updates. He introduced the members of the Property Management Committee: Jack K7DBU, Erick K7APO, Greta KF7KSW, Al N7OMS, Bruce WE7P, Paul W7PFU and himself.

4th Weds Activity Night - Mike W7MWF advised that the October 4WAN will be a hands-on workshop 'Introduction to bread-boards for circuit design and testing'. A small lab fee (about $5) will be assessed to help offset cost of components and materials. Watch your email and check the website for more details to be posted soon.

New Business

Program Prez Dave W7UUU enlightened the group about the many and exciting committee positions that will be available for volunteers to sign up for in time for the January Board Meeting when he will be appointing our 2018 committee chairmanships. Members were urged to consider becoming more involved in committee projects.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

W7DK Century Club Mike W7MWF reminded folks that the window for joining the Century Club will close the end of October. If you wish to join this one-time group to help fund archiving projects, please send $100 to Mike W7MWF by the end of October so that your name can be included on the plaque to be displayed at the clubhouse.

Salmon Run September 16/17 operated from the Clubhouse. Randy WB4SPB reported on highlights of the operating event. Mike W7MKE reported on the success of the fund-raising drive and will provide a final tally of results after pledge payments have been sent in.

Kitsap Co ARC Hamfest - Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 9 AM to 1 PM. West Side Improvement Club, 4109 West E Street, Bremerton. $5 admission, under 12 are free. For more info visit **kcarc.org**

Show and Tell

Tuning and Traffic Mike reported that on the second day of using the new FT-8 digital mode he made a QSO with Joe Taylor K1JT who developed the FT-8 protocol as well as JT-65 and JT-8.

Door Prize The door prize, a box of handy dandy tools, was won by Dave W7UUU.

Raffle Prize Dan KG7DWF won the raffle prize, a watt meter.

Adjournment was at 2010 PDT.

Help support the club by donating ham equipment that you no longer need. See PMT Red WB7EC any Saturday at the Clubhouse.

Which Type of Repeater User Are You?

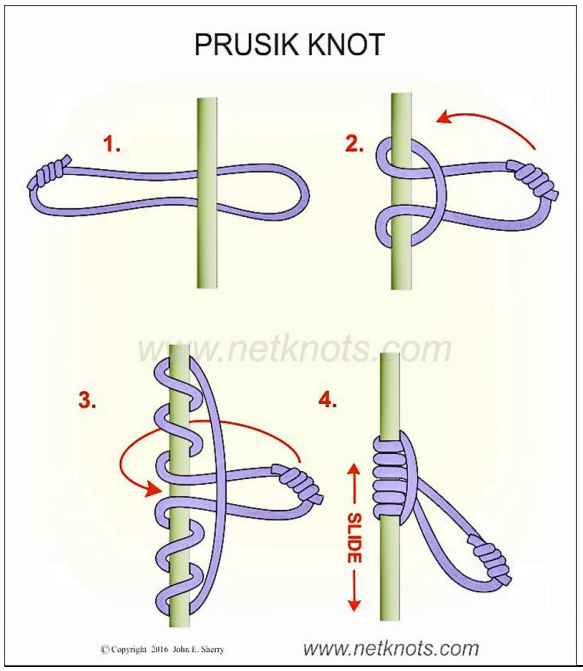
Speak Closely and Clearly 1 inch from your microphone for best copy at the far end.

HINTS AND KINKS
CONSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTION
BY READER SUBMISSION

Lets say you are going to install a new Inverted Vee antenna up your tower 55 ft. You'll pull the center of the antenna up with a halyard. In the center will be a Balun or a center insulator device with a SO-239 Coax Jack– where your brand new $118 hundred footer RG-213 coax jumper from DX-Engineering screws its PL-259 into. How will you secure the coax jumper to the antenna? Most hams simply screw it in and let it dangle.

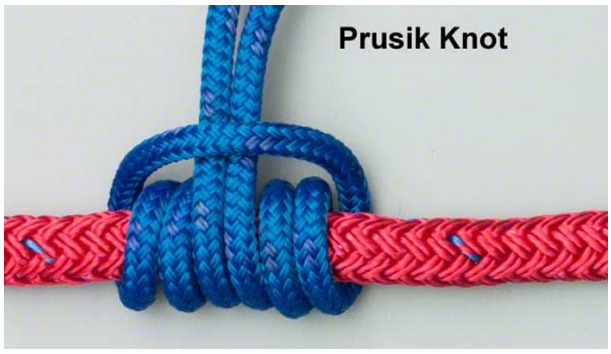
The 'dangle' method works if the ham station owner is a true believer in the fact that all things in a ham station are temporary– soon to be changed or moved or experimented with, it's just the nature of ham radio. But Murphy could unexpectedly enter the picture during the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes contest just when your 1500 watts is pouncing on the rare Canadian MAR section station. Surprise! Murphy strikes and the weight of the 55 feet of coax cable pulls out of the PL-259 connector still screwed into the Balun. Curses! You say, "What could have I done to prevent that failure?"

Enter the **Kellems Grip**– a Chinese Finger hand cuff like gripping device used by the electrical and commercial radio industry to relieve strain on hanging cables. Google reveals many sources for this device. Here, the Kellems grip support lanyard could be suspended from the eye bolt on the top of the balun.



If coax cable support is needed and using a Kellems grip is temporarily not feasible… then a **Prusik Knot Sling** makes a good substitute. This knot tied into a sling is used by mountain climbers to ascend from falling into a crevasse. It's a friction hitch that grips the surface in the center of the knot–

Kellums Grip invented by Vivian Kellems.



A Clear example of a Prusik Knot
Click: http://www.animatedknots.com/prusik/index.php for an animated 'how to'.

you can spot the coax cable not dangling straight down. Maybe you'll be able to see the strain relief gripping method.

Via the RFI Digest from Contesting.com…
Mr Ed Hare W1RFI reports:

Noise cancellers can be 30 to 50 dB effective against a single source of noise. They work by positioning a sense antenna that will pick up more noise than signal and combining that out of phase with the signal plus noise from your main antenna. That can be very effective.

They do have disadvantages, though. They don't work against multiple noise sources. They are tricky to set up and tune and if you QSY a few tens of kHz, you need to retweak the settings. They will also change the receive pattern of your antenna, so if you are using a directional antenna, your "noise" antenna will pick up signals from all directions, perhaps degrading your front-to-back ratio. And, no matter what, they will put a null in your receive pattern in the direction of the noise, so in that direction, you will pick up less signal, too.

in our case the coax cable. If you use the Kellems or Prusik method of securing your cables then it's recommended to apply some electrical tape above and below the grip to 'back it up'.

Waterproofing the coax connection where it attaches to the Balun is covered in the Sept 2017 issue of the Bark http://w7dk.org/images/rct_bark/bark_2017_09.pdf On page 18.

Next time you are looking up the Tower at the Clubhouse– take a looky at the center of each dipole antenna and see if

MFJ-1096 RF Noise Cancelling device. There are similar devices by other manufacturers. This device is not the Audio Enhancer that was demoed at the clubhouse recently.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Technician class license was created in 1951 as a special-purpose amateur-experimenter's license for those only interested in the *Ultra-Highs.*

Ed note: Seriously?

TNT THE NEW THING

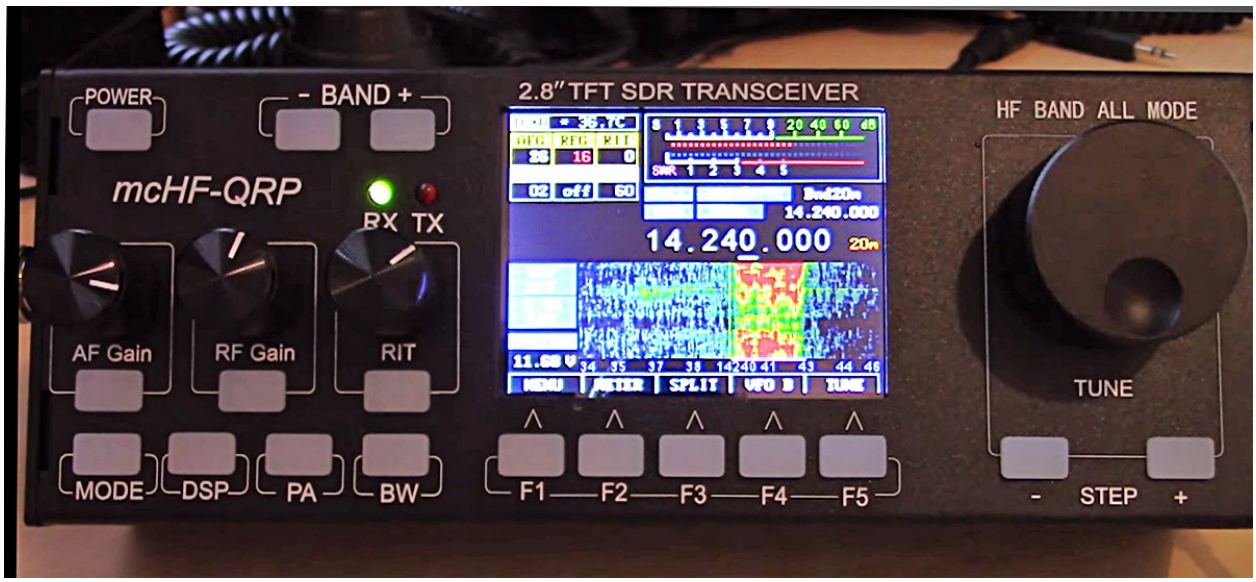
WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

This SDR Radio Isn't For You…

if you are an "appliance operator" type of ham looking for perfection… so says an on line review. The reviewer continues: …and not willing to upgrade the radio, occasionally flash the software and perhaps modify and tinker with it or you are not willing to read about the radio as updates become available your not going to like this radio …

Updates? Tinkering? As I remember– that's how the Elecraft KX3 started out in 2012.



Introducing: ***the*** **RECENT RS-918SSB HF SDR HAM Transceiver (QRP—15 Watts)**

Notice on the radios front panel label: **mcHF QRP**. The **mcHF** (mc stands for **m**ega-**c**heap) SDR project was launched by Chris, M0NKA in the UK about 2 years ago. Chris sold a kit of circuit boards with 95% of the surface mount parts installed. The remaining parts to install were larger and easier. Some toroids needed winding and installed and the builder needed to provide their own final power amplifier MOSFETS and a case for the radio. The radio kit came with NO instructions- as the builder had to peruse the mcHF Yahoo Group, downloads page, and the GitHub Wiki (all open source info) to figure it all out. All of this sold for $388. ***But Wait! Are you are suspecting that the radio I am profiling here could be a 'Cheap Chinese Knock Off'.*** Mostly True… but please read on.

I visited Chris's UK website http://www.m0nka.co.uk/ to figure out how to buy one of his kits. As the police at the crime scene say to looky loos, "Keep moving. Nothing to see here". Looks like Chris has mostly shut down his radio project. I saw nothing to purchase.

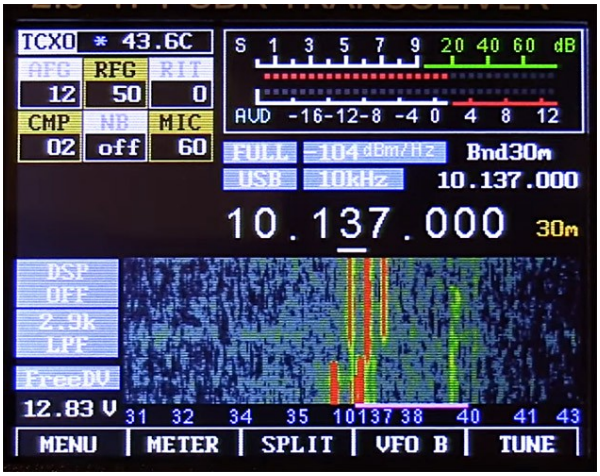
When the Elecraft KX2 entered the ham radio market a year ago… I was ready to dump it's big brother– my trusty KX3 and get one. If you are in the same boat… please consider taking a looky at the RECENT RS-918SSB. It can be purchased from Amazon for $460.

It needs external 13VDC- a Lithium hobby battery or small AC Power supply and external antenna tuner for non resonant antennas. Note that the KX2 without internal battery, antenna tuner, and hand mic sells for $750.

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/RECENT-RS-918SSB-SDR-HAM-Transceiver/dp/B072155421/ref=cm_cr_srp_d_product_top?ie=UTF8
Techy specs can be found at Amazon.

There are some good Youtube videos that profile this radio- most informative is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVAm2PuxZz0&t=539s be sure to look at this authors other videos– they are quite good.

If anyone out there in Bark Newsletter Land buys a RECENT SDR, please bring it to the RCT Clubhouse some Saturday and show it off.



Visit Youtube link below for complete explanation of this SDR Waterfall Display.

Gift Giving Season Suggestion Product Showcase:

***The* Seven AM Radio Electronic DIY Kit Electronic Learning Kit from BangGood– one of the new Heathkits for our current times.**

Click the BangGood Link for Kit Goodness:

https://www.banggood.com/Seven-AM-Radio-Electronic-DIY-Kit-Electronic-Learning-Kit-p-946167.html?

For $5.61 (free shipping, no sales tax) you can gift yourself or a loved one an **AM Broadcast Radio Kit** and experience the art of DIY. It's a radio project– not specifically ham radio… but the parts in this kit are just like what's inside of an older ham transceiver. This kit is a great way to get acquainted with radio components and maybe learn a bit of radio theory.

Perhaps you are still a bit afraid to proceed. There's help- an informative and entertaining Youtube video by one of my favorite instructional radio YouTube authors: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWtskDrjDgA&t=760s

Very Snazzy!, eh?

Summits On The Air Outing to Tamanos Mountain—8/24/2014

Ham Radio Joe was over at our house the other day for some coffee and chit-chat and noticed a photo on my Windows Media Center PCs screensaver. "Looky there" he remarks, "What peak is that?".

From Sunrise Visitor Area in Mt Rainier NP. Tamanos is above the gable roof of the lodge.

"That's Tamanos Mountain. Pat and I hiked up to the top as a 'get in shape' preparation and equipment shake down hike for a 6 day backpacking trip in the National Park. I also took along my SOTA radio kit to make some QSOs and rack up some points. Tamanos is 6800 ft high and is worth 8 points for those who are in the competition".

Joe wants to know how the trip went. "OK Joe– take a load off and have another cup of coffee and listen up. We began our outing in the Eastside of Mt Rainier National Park and hiked the many confusing (which direction am I going?) switchbacks up the Owyhigh Lakes trail. After 3 miles we set up the tent at one of the Tamanos Creek backcountry camp sites. No vistas to admire from this campground, but still a nice place to hang out.

Early the next morning we filled our packs and hit the trail toward Owyhigh Lakes. Finally we were out of the trees with views of the Governor's Ridge. Just past the lakes– at the apex of this trail lies a meadow– a very scenic spot. This is the beginning of the unmaintained boot trail that ascends to Tamanos' summit.

The view from this point looks 'straight up' to the top of a ridge- a false summit of sorts. Garmin GPS confirmed this– as it recorded our travel as .7 miles and gained 1300 ft. From the false summit ridge– hiking became easier. It was easy to forget the difficult climb due to the 360 degree scenic vistas. More steep up hill took us to a clearing about 100 ft from the actual summit- which is 40 ft higher in elevation according to Garmin. Going further was not worth taking the time and risk over the difficult terrain. We were within the official SOTA 'activation zone' (within 90 vertical ft of summit)- close enough.

Upon setting up the station on the rocks… Curses! I realized that I forgot my 16 ft collapsible fishing pole that is the center apex of the 44 ft Dan's Doublet wire antenna. Another good reason to stop at this spot versus the summit is ***the tree***– the only tree for a thousand feet in any direction. This is a hundreds of years old "**God's Tree**", a term coined by a religious SOTA ham friend who forgot his pole in a tree-less place and found a single tree that God put there for him to use. The top of my Gods tree stood just above my reach– but I was able to use my trekking pole to place the center of the doublet antenna onto its spire.

I had posted this SOTA outing on ***'SotaWatch'*** [**CLICK LINK**]- an online database where

members can let others know of upcoming outings to summits. Now QRV on 20 Meters- I sent dah-dit-dah-dit-dah 3 times on 14.061– the frequency I had posted. A Morse question mark was heard from far away. I then sent, DE KR7W/SOTA. Wow! A cacophony of Morse signals were heard. A Pile Up. Many, many signals… and I hadn't called CQ yet or used my APRS radio to ***SPOT*** **[CLICK for definition]** myself on the SotaWatch website.

QSOs were made on 20M and 40M. I record my QSOs with small audio recorder and know that first I was on 40 Meters for about 10 minutes… then went to 20 Meters to meet the pile up of signals for about 20 minutes until I abruptly ended the radio operations. Now Joe sez, "You had a big pile up of QSOs… why stop now? Got any more coffee?"

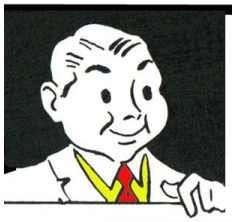
KR7W at S Key. APRS Handy Talky dangles from branch.

"Well, Joe… I hadn't been paying attention to the scenery with my nose in log book and operating the straight key. A concerned Ms Pat mentioned that the clouds were turning black– just like the beginning of other mountain thunder storm squalls we've been in. It was time to pick up, Stat! and head back to our camp site to pack up the tent. The last 20M QSO ended with this message: ***QST QST NOW QRT BAD WX BAD WX QRT 73 DE KR7W CL.***

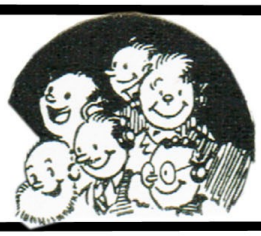
Radio club member Bob K7MXE had been following this outing via APRS– where he was able to see my tracks on **www.aprs.fi/kr7w [CLICK].** He had been listening to the 20 Meter QSOs and heard my QRT message and posted on SotaWatch- ***KR7W QRT BAD WX.***

Even with the approaching thunderstorm… it was difficult to hurry down. It was too easy to stop and look around at the beautiful scenery. In fact– listening to the 40 Meter audio recording, in QSO with Bob K7MXE, he asked me if I was pooped. I replied, "A bit pooped but best scenery yet".

Back at our campsite the sky through the forest was very dark for 3 PM. The sprinkles began a short ways down the trail so we donned our rain jackets. Rain, Rain, Rain…. Then **FLASH! BOOM!** In quick succession. Lightening had struck very close to us. It's a bad idea to be walking around in a lightning storm as high voltage ground currents can place a deadly potential between each foot. With feet together, we huddled under a tree to wait it out. There was a long lull in the thunder activity and we were only a half hour to the car so we made a break for it. I could see the road were seeking then **FLASH BOOM!** The lightning flash looked to be across the White River– a half mile away in the valley. The very loud echoing thunder clap nearly knocked me down. Now safely in the car with jittery nerves and soaking wet we decided to cancel our second nights camp out in the Park's backcountry.



The Logger's Bark Photo Page



Tamanos Mountain SOTA Outing

KR7W's version of *God's Tree* – the only tree for a long ways. Don't pay attention to those dark bottomed clouds– they'll blow over. No worries, there's lot of radio contacts to be made.

QSO Audio files can be listened to here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ue9ih8oxwsr5krh/AAAHJNu-QcYY_LUaCk7h_BBc6a?dl=0

Find my errors– it might be good Morse Code Practice.

All photos by Ms Pat WT7N

Looking to the West… we see an unusual view of Little Tahoma Peak.

You've reached the end of the long trail through this newsletter. Thanks for reading this far.

73
Rick KR7W

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE LOGGER'S BARK is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org
Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org
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5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org
Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org
Bob Jamison, KE7WPK - ke7wpk@w7dk.org
Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org
Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Rich Patrick KR7W
Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma
Send articles to: 599kr7w@gmail.com Bark, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98111

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RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma:	147.280 + PL=103.5	
Crawford Mountain	147.380 + PL=103.5	(E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma:	440.625 + PL=103.5	
North Tacoma:	145.21 – PL=141.3	

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.